

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today or tomorrow the House will consider a privileged resolution I have introduced calling on the Ethics Committee to release the report of the outside counsel investigating Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. I would like to read the text of that privileged resolution:

Whereas on December 6, 1995, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to appoint an outside counsel to conduct an independent, nonpartisan investigation of allegations of ethical misconduct by Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas, after an eight-month investigation, that outside counsel has submitted an extensive document containing the results of his inquiry;

Whereas the report of the outside counsel cost the taxpayers \$500,000;

Whereas the public has a right—and members of Congress have a responsibility—to examine the work of the outside counsel and reach an independent judgment concerning the merits of the charges against the Speaker;

Whereas these charges have been before the Ethics Committee for more than two years;

Whereas a failure of the Committee to release the outside counsel's report before the adjournment of the 104th Congress will seriously undermine the credibility of the Ethics Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives;

Therefore be it resolved that—

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall immediately release to the public the outside counsel's report on Speaker Newt Gingrich, including any conclusions, recommendations, attachments, exhibits or accompanying material.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT MUST COMPLETE ITS WORK

(Mr. GUNDERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] earlier, are absolutely correct. I would like to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in publicly stating that the American people and this Congress have not only the right, but we as representatives of those people have the responsibility to see the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct complete its process, when it is complete. I repeat, when it is complete.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, chaired by the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON], our colleague, has conducted this investigation in accordance with the rules established by this House.

When the committee has completed its responsibilities, I am confident that the report will be made public and then the American people and the House of Representatives will have the opportunity and the responsibility to respond to those conclusions.

Until such time, I would call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to

let the rules of the House and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct complete its task and its responsibility. I believe that will be done properly.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR A REASONABLE INVESTIGATION?

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I listen to my words of my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. GUNDERSON], and I would agree with him that clearly we do not want any half-baked anything here. But as I get ready to leave this body, I am beginning to think about what I could will to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and I am thinking about willing them an outbox. I guess the question is, how long does it take for a reasonable investigation? Our problem is 2 years seems like a very long time.

In the past, and we can bring those charts to the floor except they probably would be ruled out of order, but we have charts showing that all sorts of serious complaints before were dealt with in a matter of weeks or months, and sometimes days. But 2 years, 2 long years? And there is some suspicion that we may not see this until after the term is over and that people will then think, oh, well, it is moot now and we start all over again.

I think, if that happens, this body will really be operating under a very dark cloud.

"DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER FROM THE PAST APPLIES TO PRESENT ETHICS COMMITTEE SITUATION

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, three of the previous speakers, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], were all signatories to a letter that goes directly to this point that they are now arguing the other side of with respect to disclosure from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. It was written just a few short years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it says:

As the Ethics Committee prepares its recommendations to the full House, it should only release the information which the Committee agrees is relevant and necessary to support its findings.

Why is that? Because, it goes on, to ask a Member, any Member, to also respond in the court of public opinion to allegations, rumors and innuendo not deemed worthy of charge by the Committee would be totally unfair and a perversion of the process. Especially in a time of press sensationalism.

Public release of material not germane to formal Committee action

In the Wright case,

would be similar to the process used during the Joe McCarthy era: Ignore the discipline of the process and firm evidence and dump unproven allegations out in public and let the ensuing publicity destroy the person's reputation and character.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for just one second?

Mr. WYNN. I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to respond that in the Wright case it took 2 weeks to get a special counsel, and in the Gingrich case we talked about 15 months. I think there is a great difference. Thank you.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, people often wonder: Is there a difference between Democrats and Republicans? There absolutely is. That difference is being played out in the closing weeks of this year's session.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are trying to get more money for education, about \$3.1 billion for education and job training. No, it will not unbalance the budget. The budget will be fine. But it will enable us to provide funds for basic math and reading skills. Head Start, summer jobs for kids, dislocated worker assistance, school-to-work initiatives, and Pell grants for college students.

Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of rhetoric about our children's future. The Democrats care about our children's future. That is why we are fighting for education. The American people want more Federal support for education. Strapped local and State governments want more money for education.

We have an opportunity in the closing weeks of this session to provide that assistance without affecting the budget. We ought to do it.

Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between the Democrats and Republicans: Democrats favor aid to education.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION RETREATS

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after a decade of progress under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, Bill Clinton is leading the full-scale retreat on the war on drugs.

Upon arriving in the White House, Bill Clinton began by dismantling the war on drugs. He began by slashing the U.S. military's drug interdiction budget by 1,000 positions. In February 1993,

he eliminated 83 percent of the staff at the Office of National Drug Policy. That is where the drug czar works.

Bill Clinton cut Customs Service interdiction by 20 percent. And to top it off, in December 1993, the Clinton-appointed Surgeon General, Jocelyn Elders, publicly talked about drug legalization.

Mr. Speaker, is it any surprise that under Bill Clinton's watch the number of 12- to 17-year-olds using marijuana has doubled? And marijuana use today starts at a younger age. The average age of first use is about 13½ years.

The children of today are coming under the era of the President who said, I didn't inhale. And now it is our communities that are feeling the pain.

SELECT COMMITTEE NEEDED TO INVESTIGATE CIA/CRACK CONNECTIONS

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I demand that this House investigate recent reports of CIA-organized military efforts which led to the introduction of crack cocaine into south central Los Angeles and other inner city areas.

The San Jose Mercury News, in a recent series of newspaper articles, has documented the involvement of CIA operatives in the earliest trafficking of crack cocaine into this country.

Crack cocaine has ravaged our communities with despair, violence, addiction, and death. In what appears to be an overzealous attempt to raise money for the Nicaraguan Contras in the early 1980's, it is alleged that the CIA-run Contras used profits, profits made from selling drugs in the United States, to fund their movement.

Mr. Speaker, these charges are so severe that they require immediate congressional action. Today, I call on this House to pass legislation I have introduced enabling an Iran-Contra-type select committee to get to the bottom of the allegations that have been made.

We cannot wait to consider this matter, Mr. Speaker. Too much time has been lost already.

□ 1030

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, as this session draws to a close there is much unfinished business, very important business that we must address. One such piece of legislation that we have addressed in this House, thankfully, is the English language bill.

I have spoken to the leadership in the other body, and I hope that they will bring that bill up for a vote before the end of the session. Many Members have and I have personally spent years,

countless months, weeks, days, and hours on this effort.

I am thankful that again we in this House had the good sense to pass this bill, as the American people have so often requested in every single poll taken in America. Now we must see to it that we carry this bold action for America through to its cherished end. I am asking the Members of this House to help me in that effort.

LET THE PEOPLE BE HEARD

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak on a very serious issue, and I truly believe that this should not be an issue, a cause of partisan stridency. But a friend of mine, Speaker Jim Wright, some years ago faced this House in a dignified manner. Interestingly enough, the report on Speaker Wright, an outstanding man, dealing with an ethics allegation, was issued and reported to this body in 14 days. Speaker Wright was a Democrat and a great American.

It seems to me quite contradictory and hypocritical that we now have a preliminary ethics report on the Speaker of the House and the American people cannot hear it. I do not need to rise to the floor of the House shouting at the top of my lungs. I only need to ask the question.

If there is a report of ethics violations on the Speaker of the House of the United States of America, let the people be heard and let the people hear the report. This report should be issued so that all of us can discuss it, understand it and respond to it. Release the special counsel's report now on behalf of the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LINDER. Pursuant to clause 2, rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a question of privileges of the House resolution.

I will read the contents of the resolution:

Whereas, a complaint filed against Rep. Gephardt alleges House Rules have been violated by Rep. Gephardt's concealment of profits gained through a complex series of real estate tax exchanges and;

Whereas, the complaint also alleges possible violations of banking disclosure and campaign finance laws or regulations and;

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has in complex matters involving complaints hired outside counsel with expertise in tax laws and regulations and;

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Office Conduct is responsible for determining whether Rep. Gephardt's financial transactions violated standards of conduct or specific rules of House of Representatives and;

Whereas, the complaint against Rep. Gephardt has been languishing before the committee for more than seven months and the integrity of the ethics process and the manner in which Members are disciplined is called into question; now, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is authorized and directed to hire a special counsel to assist in the investigation of this matter.

Resolved, That all relevant materials presented to, or developed by, the committee to date on the complaint be submitted to a special counsel, for review and recommendation to determine whether the committee should proceed to a preliminary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days. The Chair will announce that designation at a later time.

A determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at that later time.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2977, ADMINISTRATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XX and by direction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2977) to reauthorize alternative means of dispute resolution in the Federal administrative process, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, this is the customary request which will enable us to go to conference on this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE].

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. HYDE, GEKAS, FLANAGAN, CONYERS, and REED.

There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.